

1. A housing for an inflatable restraint system comprising:
  - a plurality of retainer panels attachable to form a substantially rectangular retainer body for receipt of a folded inflatable restraint cushion, wherein at least one of said panels includes a plurality of projecting hooks;
  - a plastic adapter comprising wall portions positionable around the retainer body, and a flange projecting substantially perpendicular to said wall portions;
  - wherein at least one of said wall portions includes a plurality of apertures for receipt of said hooks, said apertures having widths greater than a width of said hooks to allow relative movement therebetween.
2. The housing of claim 1 further comprising a metal reinforcing plate attached to at least one of said wall portions.
- 20 3. The housing of claim 2 wherein said adapter is overmolded with said plate.
4. The housing of claim 1 wherein said adapter comprises five wall portions defining a substantially rectangular shape with a discontinuous periphery.
- 25 5. An adapter for attaching an airbag retainer to an instrument panel in a vehicle comprising:
  - a molded plastic body having a plurality of integral planar wall portions adapted to attach with a substantially rectangular airbag retainer;
  - a substantially planar flange projecting outwardly from said wall portions, said flange adapted to attach with a vehicle instrument panel;
  - wherein said molded plastic body includes a discontinuous periphery.

5 6. The adapter of claim 5 wherein said plurality of wall portions includes:  
a first side wall having a plurality of apertures formed therein for receipt  
of hooks; and

10 a second and a third side wall positioned opposite said first side wall, each  
of said second and third side walls having a least one aperture formed therein for receipt  
of hooks.

7. The adapter of claim 6 wherein each of said second and third side walls  
includes a single aperture formed therein.

15 8. The adapter of claim 5 wherein said plurality of wall portions includes:  
a first side wall having a substantially constant height; and  
second and third sidewalls oriented substantially perpendicular to said first  
sidewall and attached at opposite ends thereof, said second and third sidewalls having  
heights decreasing in a direction away from said first sidewall.

20 9. An inflatable restraint system for a motor vehicle comprising:  
a retainer with a plurality of attachable panels and a plurality of  
attachment hooks projecting from at least one of said panels;  
an inflatable restraint device positioned in said retainer;  
25 a gas generator operable to provide an inflation gas to said inflatable  
restraint device;  
an adapter for attaching said retainer to a vehicle instrument panel, said  
adapter comprising a peripheral wall with a plurality of apertures for receipt of said  
hooks, and a flange projecting substantially perpendicular to said peripheral wall.

30 10. The inflatable restraint system of claim 9 wherein said adapter defines a  
portion of a rectangle having a gap formed along one side thereof, said gap facilitating  
flexing of said adapter.

5 11. The inflatable restraint system of claim 9 wherein said adapter comprises:  
a first side wall having a plurality of apertures; and  
second and third side walls each having at least one aperture.

10 12. The inflatable restraint system of claim 11 further comprising a metallic  
reinforcing plate attached along said first side wall, said plate having a plurality of  
apertures substantially aligning with the apertures formed in said first side wall.

15 13. The inflatable restraint system of claim 12 wherein said adapter is formed  
having apertures sized such that said adapter is movable relative to said retainer when  
engaged therewith.

20 14. An adapter for a vehicle air bag housing comprising:  
a first peripheral wall defining an at least partially enclosed cross sectional  
area through which an inflating airbag may be projected, said first peripheral wall  
adapted to engage with mounting members in a vehicle dashboard;  
a second peripheral wall depending from said first peripheral wall and  
adapted to engage with an airbag housing.

25 15. The adapter of claim 14 wherein said first peripheral wall is substantially  
planar and oriented substantially perpendicular to said second peripheral wall.

16. The adapter of claim 15 wherein said first peripheral wall defines a  
substantially rectangular cross section.

30 17. The adapter of claim 16 wherein said first peripheral wall comprises a  
discontinuous substantially rectangular cross section.

18. The adapter of claim 14 wherein said second peripheral wall defines a  
space having a substantially rectangular cross section.

5 19. The adapter of claim 18 wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a plurality of integral wall portions arranged in a rectangular shape, said second peripheral wall adapted to attach at least partially inside walls of an airbag housing.

10 20. The adapter of claim 18 wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a discontinuous substantially rectangular cross section.

21. The adapter of claim 18 wherein said second peripheral wall comprises a plurality of integral wall portions arranged in a substantially rectangular fashion.

15 22. The adapter of claim 15 wherein said first peripheral wall defines a plane that slopes relative to said second peripheral wall.

20 23. The adapter of claim 14 wherein the first peripheral wall extends outwardly relative to the second peripheral wall.

24. A method of mounting an airbag retainer for an inflatable occupant restraint system in a motor vehicle comprising the steps of:  
molding a plastic adapter having a mounting flange and at least one sidewall depending from the flange, wherein the sidewall is adapted to attach with an airbag retainer;  
attaching the molded plastic adapter to an airbag retainer for housing a folded airbag;  
mounting the airbag retainer in a vehicle via an engagement of the mounting flange with mounting members in an instrument panel in the vehicle.

30 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of attaching the molded plastic adapter to an airbag retainer comprises flexing the plastic adapter to accommodate the airbag retainer inside a periphery of the sidewall.